

THE COLONNADE

COACH ELLER BUILDS A PLAYER

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Ada Montgomery / Senior Photography

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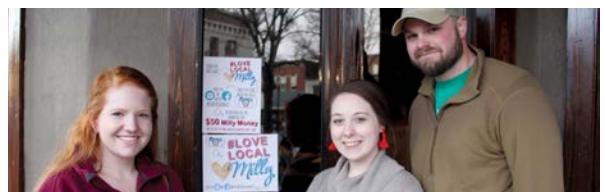
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Blackbird Coffee expands into space next door



Christian Brook / Staff Photographer

Many of Blackbird's renovations will be out of public view, including a green room for performers and an underground maze of hallways for fire safety.

Katie O'Neal
Staff Writer

Blackbird Coffee began its expansion project by starting from scratch, completely gutting the space next door.

"We scrapped the floor all the way down to the dirt and rebuilt the complete infrastructure of the building," said Blackbird co-owner

Jimmy Holder. "Really, all we kept was the shell."

The new room will include extra seating, new tables, two additional bathrooms, a bar and a stage for performances. An outdoor patio will extend from the new room for customers who want to enjoy the weather.

Blackbird also expanded its kitchen with the intention to make more salads and sandwiches as the restaurant continues to evolve. The front area will be a retail space.

Once all of the renovations are done, there will be an additional 80 seats. New additions

downstairs, which most people will not see, include a green room for performers and a maze of hallways for fire safety.

"We officially named [the new space] The Bird House Theater because one of our great passions is theater," said co-owner Iona Holder, Jimmy's wife. "We hope to produce theatrical productions, but as we planned this space, it was really important to us that we created a really flexible space that we could rent as a venue for events."

The downstairs area will be used for overflow seating for Blackbird customers during the day.

"Then at night, we can morph it into anything we want to," Jimmy said. "It's a multi-use evolving space."

This means more space to have meetings and productions.

"[We love] artists," Iona said. "We were like well, if we were students, [we] would want to [have a space] to put on a show, so that's what we built."

Jimmy and Iona plan to adjust the setup, bring in more chairs and tables and do some touch-ups within the next few weeks. A major lighting installation for the theater aspect of the space has not been completed yet. The room should be finished within the next month.

"I am really excited about the [expansion], and the new chairs are really comfortable," said assistant economics professor Brent Evans. "I think [Blackbird] has the best iced coffee I've ever had. [It has a] great atmosphere [and] great stuff. I usually come

here three or four times a week."

Now that Blackbird has more room, customers will no longer need to claim a spot or fight for space.

"[The expansion] needed to happen a long time ago," said junior Kate Hensley, a nursing major. "I am all for it."

Blackbird plans to produce its first stage production using the new space in April 2018.



Christian Brook / Staff Photographer

Students will be able to use the Bird House Theater as an artistic space.

**Check out The
Colonnade's
website for
our video on
Blackbird's
expansion!**



Student becomes US citizen without realizing it

Emily
McClure
News Editor

When Sean Correa took the oath to become a U.S. citizen on Jan. 19, he had already been a citizen for over two years. But through a bureaucratic mix-up, Correa thought he was a citizen only of the Philippines for almost a year after he became a U.S. citizen.

Correa, a sophomore pre-nursing major at GC, immigrated to the U.S. with his mother and two siblings when he was 4 years old. Correa's two siblings became U.S. citizens through the naturalization process after they turned 18, a process Correa also planned to start after his 18th birthday.

However, when Correa's mother, Irene Ortega, became a naturalized citizen in 2015, Correa automatically became a citizen as well since he was still a minor. Neither he nor his mother knew this, though, so Correa began the naturalization process for himself in 2016 after his 18th birthday.

After months of filling out paperwork and

assembling required documents, Correa and his mother went to Atlanta to begin filing for his citizenship. They were surprised when the clerk submitting the documents encountered an astonishing hiccup.

"The lady who was filling out the paperwork was like, 'Hmm, it says here on the system that you're a citizen already,'" Correa said. "And I was like, 'Wh-what do you mean I'm a citizen already?' And she said, 'Yeah, it says here you became a citizen in 2015 when your mom became a citizen.'"

Correa and his mother then embarked on another few months of paperwork, only to be told that they were on the wrong track and had to start over again. Finally, after two years of trying to become a citizen, Correa was notified that his oath-taking ceremony would occur in January 2018.

Correa's mother and grandmother drove to Milledgeville to pick him up for the 8 a.m. ceremony in Atlanta, which meant Correa had to wake up at 5 a.m.

"He only got an hour and a half of sleep the night before," said Correa's roommate Alex Scudellari, a sophomore political science major. "He was up and out before his alarm, and he was super excited."

Over 40 nations were represented at

Correa's oath-taking ceremony, which included the pledge of allegiance, a performance of the national anthem and a video message from President Donald Trump.

"That was interesting," Correa said. "And it was funny because I was looking around, and everyone was like: 'Oh, God.'"

Correa said Trump's speech was one of congratulations for coming to America.

"He was saying, 'We're welcoming everyone from every single country,'" Correa said. "And I was like, 'Really? Because I'm pretty sure last week you were talking about the s---hole countries and the s---hole people from those countries.'"

Correa said that being a citizen doesn't feel too different from being a permanent resident. His former lack of citizenship presented few obstacles as he grew up; his access to education, including college scholarships, was exactly the same as that of his friends.

But Correa's best friend and roommate Tate Pointer said he could see a change in Correa when the ceremony was over.

"I think after he was sworn in, it was a huge relief because all of the stress of being told to do wrong steps and being told, at times, they had to restart the whole application process over," said Pointer, a sophomore

marketing major. "After he came back from the ceremony, he was still the funny and energetic Sean we all knew, but this time his smile was even bigger because his future can now stay in the U.S. forever."

And now that he is a citizen, Correa's family can travel with his mother and siblings back to the Philippines to visit extended family.

"Being a permanent resident means you can't travel to other countries and come back because you don't have a passport, so you have to stay in America," Correa said. "My mom has always been talking about going back. Ever since I was a kid, she would say, 'Hey, we're going to do this family vacation when you guys become citizens,' so I guess now we can finally do one."

When he graduates from GC, Correa plans to become a nurse, a career his family inspired him to pursue. His mother has been a nurse for 16 years, and his siblings are in the process of becoming nurses, as well.

"My mom, she's a single parent, and when we were young, she would always provide for us, no matter what," Correa said. "And after I saw that, I was like, 'You're freaking awesome, Mom, I wanna be just like you.'"



Correa's grandmother, mother and brother attended his citizenship oath-taking ceremony in Atlanta on Jan. 19.



Photos Courtesy of Irene Ortega

Student brings gun to Baldwin County middle school

Emmy
Cooper
Staff Writer

Baldwin County police reported to Baldwin County's Oak Hill Middle School after an unloaded gun was found in a student's possession on Jan. 19. This marks the third time in three months that a student has brought a gun onto a school's campus in Baldwin County.

The police report states that the student was in possession of a small caliber gun and was removed from campus. Further information about the victim was withheld due to their age.

Baldwin County Sheriff Bill Massee said no violent act took place in the incidents.

"On both occasions the students were detained, we investigated it, and they were processed through juvenile court," Massee said.

Massee also said that there is no common motive in all three of these incidents.

"It's hard to say that any of these incidents were related to the other," he said. "It's a picture of the times that we live in that a child would consider bringing a weapon into school whether it's the social structure within that home, if it media driven or if that individual child wasn't thinking."

The community has been discussing gang-related activity in the wake of these accidents.

"We do have gang issues in our community, we have crime in our community and to be real blunt with you we have narcotics in our community," Massee said. "It is the straw that stirs the drink. It is what keeps gangs in business and it's what creates a lot of problems without young people in trouble."

The Baldwin County School Board has decided to place metal detectors in the middle and high schools to broaden their security.

The board also decided to make the schools cell phone free and enforce the use of clear or visible mesh backpacks in order to monitor the items brought into their school. School resource officers are required to always keep a gun on them, but teachers and other faculty are not permitted to possess a gun on campus.

Senior special education major Shelby Marrick said she feels safer with a resource officer carrying a gun.

"I think it is appropriate for the resource officer to keep a gun on them as long as it is



Madi Harty / Staff Photographer

A prominent sign notifies visitors that Baldwin County's Oak Hill Middle School is a gun-free zone.

concealed and not available to anyone else," Marrick said.

Junior middle grades education major Anslee Broome said she feels teachers have other options protect her students than having a gun in the classroom.

"I think that can be prevented through better security getting into the school or maybe having a resource officer at the end of each hall," Broome said.

Broome has experienced local schools' security measures as a student teacher.

"I walk through a metal detector every day and I love it. I have no problem with showing the security guard my purse," Broome said. "I also feel safer knowing he has a gun with him if anything were to happen."

Sheriff Massee says that the spike of incidents is not isolated to Baldwin County.

"We looked at the number state wide of the large number of incidents with people bringing weapons to school, we were taken back at the numbers of weapons that had been confiscated and the arrests made in other school systems," he said. "By no means are we making light of the insistences of what happened at Baldwin County but we do feel like we are running a pretty good school system and we try to be as secure as we can."

Milledgeville man allegedly involved in sexual assault, two vehicle crashes

Ashley
Boyle
Assistant News Editor

Montrell Johnson reportedly caused two vehicle crashes on Milledgeville streets and allegedly assaulted two people inside the Golden Pantry on East Hancock Street on Wednesday, Jan. 24. Johnson, 25, was driving a stolen vehicle when he collided with another car, pushing it into the Golden Pantry's parking lot.

"A driver in a black pickup passed me as I was stopped at a red light," said witness Tina Unruh.

Unruh was stopped at a red light when John flew by her in a stolen black Chevrolet Silverado. She watched Johnson slam into a silver car, pushing the silver car across traffic into the Golden Pantry store parking lot.

According to the Union-Recorder, Johnson

then entered the Golden Pantry and allegedly assaulted two people inside, including a female Golden Pantry employee.

"Johnson has been charged with one count of felony aggravated battery, two counts of misdemeanor battery, one count of felony aggravated sodomy, one count of criminal intent to commit a felony, and two counts of reckless driving," wrote Billy Hobbs in his Jan. 29 story in the Union-Recorder. "Johnson was also charged with felony theft of a motor vehicle, failure to obey a traffic control device, driving with a suspended license, criminal trespass, two counts of failure to provide assistance, terroristic threats and acts."

Johnson has previously been arrested for burglary and aggravated assault.

Milledgeville Police Department detectives are still investigating the events, and Johnson is currently being held at the Baldwin County Jail.

The Colonnade will continue to follow this story as it develops.



UNSUNG HEROES

Earnest Harper

**Wilson
Roberts**
Staff Writer

Editor's Note: This is the second installment in a series of profiles on GC staff members whose contributions are not often recognized as publicly as others.

For GC shuttle bus driver Earnest Harper, his job at GC involves more than just taking students from main campus to West Campus and back again. He acknowledges that to some, the idea of driving the same circuit over and over again may sound unrewarding, but he finds it anything but dull.

"Each time new people get on the bus, it's like a refresh on a computer," Harper said. "New people getting on, with different things going on in their life, and maybe there is something I can do to cheer them up."

Harper said he believes that the students he drives should be happier when they get off the bus than when they got on. He makes sure to greet every passenger with a smile when they board, giving them a wave and a cheery "Thank you!" when they get off.

When he sees a passenger looking sad,

he'll ask what's wrong and if he can do anything to help, which he usually gives in the form of advice.

"You never know what's going on in other people's lives, so I ask them what's wrong and see if there is anything I can help with," Harper said. "One time a girl got on my bus looking sad and when I asked what was wrong, she said she had a presentation, and she was really scared. I told her to do what you do and don't look any of them directly in the eyes, and later that day she got back on the bus and told me my pointers really helped out."

Harper's efforts have not gone unnoticed by the students he serves.

On Jan. 30, at the men's basketball game versus Georgia Southwestern, Harper and other GC staff chosen by senior athletes were recognized during the halftime for their service and the effect they have on those around them.

Harper stood with Shawnda Martin, a senior on GC's softball team. Shawnda met Harper during her sophomore year while he was driving the team to an away game.

"I walk to the bus, and there was gospel music playing, and there he was smiling at everyone," Martin said. "I could tell right then that we were going to be friends."

Martin and Harper's friendship took off during their conversations at the team's nightly dinners on the road.

"The whole bus would eat dinners together on the way back from games, and that is where I really got to know him," Martin said. "After that, whenever we would see each other, whether it was on the bus or just somewhere on campus, he would always say 'hi' to me."

When Martin had shoulder surgery, she said Harper would make a point to ask how she was recovering whenever he saw her.

"It was really sweet and would make my day because he took the time to remember specific details about me," Martin said.

Harper tries to do this with every team he drives to games or tournaments. Last year he took the GC women's Ultimate team to nationals last year in Kentucky, and that team also appreciated the spirit he brings to his role.

Meredith Collier, a sophomore on the Ultimate team, says that she would not have chosen anyone else after the trip.

"He was randomly assigned to us by the school, but he was fantastic," Collier said. "He was really kind and funny and just super fun to be around. He also came to all of our games and cheered us on, which meant a lot to me."

Outside of work, Harper enjoys reading and is drawn to books that help teach people how to live and to be a better person. Once he's read a book, he gives it away so it can help another person. "Brown Girl Dreaming" is one of his favorites.

He is very involved in Jones Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, where he teaches Bible study and acts as the treasurer. He and a group of church friends



Wilson Roberts / Staff Photographer

GC athlete Meredith Collier selected Harper to be recognized on Jan. 31.

have adopted the phrase "man up" as their motto.

To Harper, the phrase means that he should strive to improve in every facet of life, whether that is being a father, friend or husband.

"Those are the words I try to live my life by," he said.

That willingness to meet any challenge has influenced how he approaches every aspect of his life, including his work. He even compares his job to NASCAR.

"NASCAR drivers go around in a circle five hundred times and every time is a journey," Harper said. "The same is true with me and my job. I don't get bored of it because every lap is a journey, and I'm an adventurer at heart."



Patrick Steiner / Staff Photographer

Earnest Harper greets students each morning with a smile and a positive attitude.

Old Governor's Mansion named institution of the year

Patrick
Steiner
Staff Writer

The Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries (GAMG), a statewide museum professional group, chose Milledgeville's Old Governor's Mansion as "Institution of the Year" in January. GAMG board members and museum professionals rated the Mansion No. 1 out of over 200 Georgia museums.

Matt Davis, director of historic museums at GC, explained that the Mansion was rated for overall excellence and for a thoughtful and respectful interpretation of important aspects of 19th century history.

"We were very humbled to receive this recognition," Davis said.

Over the past 180 years, the Mansion has survived some of Georgia's most chaotic time periods. The Mansion housed Georgia's governors from 1839 to 1868, through the antebellum period and the Civil War, until it was claimed by General Sherman in 1864.

After Reconstruction, the Mansion was given to Georgia Normal & Industrial College (now GC) in 1889 and has remained in its possession ever since. In 2001, the Mansion underwent a three year long, \$9.5 million restoration to return it to its antebellum glory.

"We don't have any of the house off-limits," said junior Emma Smith, a history major and museum docent. "We really invite people to go into every room, to get up close and to really experience the house as it was in the 1800's."

Central to the Mansion's success has been the staff's accuracy and creativity in preserving the Mansion's history. Through programming,

community outreach, exhibitions and years of research, the Mansion became a Smithsonian affiliate in 2015 and is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.

"A lot of historic house museums will only tell one side of the story, and we really try to incorporate different viewpoints," said Mansion curator Molly Randolph. "I think that leads to an interpretation that is multi-layered and that appeals to a lot of different people."

In the past year, the Mansion has exhibited men's and women's 19th century fashion and has hosted its annual "Doll Wedding and High Tea" event in April. Last October, the Mansion hosted its first Murder Mystery dinner, which was very successful, and the staff plans to bring the event back in 2018.

"Everyone on staff, from our docents to the director, is willing to pitch in," Randolph said. "Everyone has a positive attitude. I think that lays a foundation for hard work and good events to spring out of."

Currently, the Mansion is preparing for the grand opening of Art Professor Ernesto Gomez's exhibition, "A Space for Sound," on Feb. 8. The exhibit will feature audio recorded from the Mansion which has been made into a "sound sculpture" for visitors to hear. The sounds will be played in the rotunda of the Mansion until May.

"The millisecond that we stop being engaged or trying to learn and do something new here, we are starting to fail," Davis said. "So it is incumbent upon us to continue to move forward."

For all GC students and faculty, admission into the Mansion is free with a Bobcat card. The Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m., with tours beginning on the hour.



Patrick Steiner / Staff Photographer

Georgia's first ladies held meetings and played music in the women's parlor.



Patrick Steiner / Staff Photographer

Museum docent Emma Smith gives a tour to a cohort of education students.

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COACH ELLER'S PERFECT PLAYER

Baseball head coach Jason Eller combined his top player's strengths to create his ideal perfect player for the Bobcats this season.

Transcribed by Caroline Snider / Staff Writer

Mental Toughness: Charlie Hecht

"I am going to take Charlie's mental game, and I hope it shows up for us Friday about 5:05 p.m."

Hitting for Contact/ Hand-eye Coordination:

Cal Gentry

"I've been doing this for 18 seasons," Eller said. "One of the best hitters I've ever got the opportunity to work with is Cal Gentry. He is outstanding when it comes to squaring up a baseball. He uses the whole field. I'm taking Gentry for the average tool."

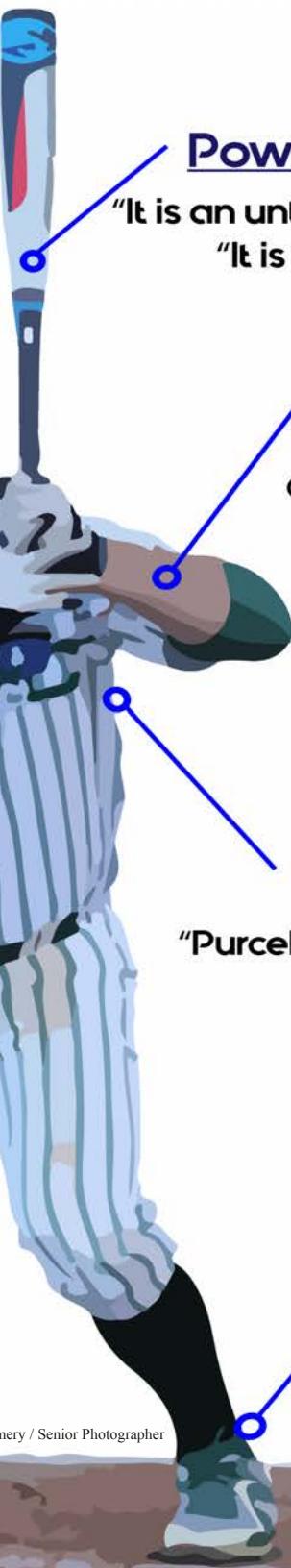
Positive Attitude: Garrett Green

"Garrett Green is one of the best teammates that anybody will ever play with. His attitude on a daily basis is awesome."

Speed:

Wesley Wommack

"In a straight line, Wesley Wommack is one of the fastest."



Power Hitter: Caleb Slaughter

"It is an untapped resource," said coach Eller. "It is light tower power. It is impressive."

Best Arm: Logan Mattix

"First game of the year last year against Ohio Valley, we were in a tough opening game" Eller said. "He threw a guy out on a tagged play at third base. It gave us a bunch of momentum, and we ended up winning that game. I think that single play affected our season as a whole. He threw it from dead center to third base on a dime. He has a hose piece as we like to say."

Leader: Brandon Purcell

"Purcell is a great leader behind the plate. It's great to see him within the confines of that."

Baserunning:

Brandon Purcell

"Even though he lost his green light for stealing last year, Brandon Purcell is the best baserunner."

Career total of 48 stolen bases out of 59 attempts.

Photo by Ada Montgomery / Senior Photographer

Georgia Amateur Champ Connelly finishing career with GC

Elyssa
Gerber
Staff Writer

When 23-year-old Justin Connelly joined the GC golf team this year, he brought more than his passion for golf with him. As the most recent Georgia State Amateur Championship winner, he enriched the team with his guidance and positive attitude.

"He is a natural born leader," said head coach Patrick Garrett. "People tend to listen to him and follow him because of his personality. He is always positive no matter how we play or what is going on."

Connelly's brother, Nathan Connelly, is a

us," Connelly said. "At GC we have a lot more freedom, and we have to go do what needs to get done on our own. We have an amazing academics program, and it separates the guys who want to be there from the guys who don't, which also brings everyone closer."

The team spends an immense amount of time practicing, but they also enjoy eating and playing basketball together. As a result of this, the players are friends as well as teammates. Connelly said he has quickly become close with the guys on the team.

"We have a saying on the team called 'paradise,' and we use it everywhere," said senior Thomas Hodges. "If you're in your own paradise, you're going to have a good

"We have a saying on the team called 'paradise,' and we use it everywhere. If you're in your own 'paradise,' you're going to have a good time. You're going to play good golf, and you're going to enjoy it."

-Thomas Hodges

GC sophomore and plays on the tennis team, which is a major factor in why Justin chose GC. Justin is currently living with Nathan.

"I don't have a place to stay here yet, so I went to Walmart and bought a cot and decorated my corner of the living room in his apartment," Justin said. "That is one of my funniest memories here so far."

Connelly graduated with a degree in clinical psychology from Mercer, where he played Division 1 golf before coming to GC, which is a Division 2 school.

While the practices and rigor were a considerable change of pace, the connection between the players made the greatest impact.

"At Mercer, every minute of every day was structured, which was good for a lot of

time. You're going to play good golf, and you're going to enjoy it."

This is Connelly's last year of eligibility as a collegiate golfer, and the future of his golf career is unknown. After winning the state amateurs, Connelly said he was confident in continuing his golfing in the professional field. However, Connelly also hopes to study nursing and one day work with kids who have cancer in a pediatric oncology unit.

"I have a set number in my mind that I would like to shoot on average to try to turn pro, and if not I would like to follow nursing and continue that here," Connelly said. "My dad is in the nursing field, and my mom is a special needs teacher. I have been raised so that at the end of the day, it is all about helping people."

BOBCAT ATHLETICS UPDATE

Jan. 31 - Feb. 7

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

vs. Georgia Southwestern | W - 68-54

vs. UNC-Pembroke | W - 75-70



MEN'S BASKETBALL

vs. Georgia Southwestern | W - 65-64

vs. UNC-Pembroke | L - 75-58



SOFTBALL (0-2)

vs. Embry-Riddle (Fla.) | L - 3-2

vs. Montevallo | L - 13-12



WOMEN'S TENNIS (1-0)

@ Brenau | W - 7-2

Riding the pine: Life on the bench for GC athletes



Madi Harty / Staff Photographer

While sitting on the bench, athletes still have an important job: encouraging their teammates.

Alex
Jones
Staff Writer

Spectators often focus on the action on the court but rarely notice the intensity on the sides. The explosion of praise and dedication that causes chairs to flip and towels to twirl has the power to inspire an entire venue.

The bench is not a place to kick back and relax. Every single player, whether on the court or not, has a job to do every minute of the game.

Energy, teamwork and passion are all factors evident in the athletes who come in off the bench.

“We all have to be engaged in the game,” said freshman basketball player Matthew Quint. “You can’t be lazy and unfocused.”

Immersing yourself in the game is a big rule. The players always pay attention to what’s happening on the court. Whenever a coach is shouting plays or assignments, the players on the bench echo what he says to help

the athletes on the court.

“We communicate to the guys out there,” said freshman basketball player Chandler Wright. “We yell to them what they might have missed or need to do.”

Besides communication and play assignments, players have their own fun on the bench. Whenever a big shot is made they will all “go crazy” to hype up the crowd and the players on the court.

“Dez [Desmond Mitchell-LaFlam] does push-ups for the points made,” said Wright. “We might even shoot the bow-and-arrow as the guys run by us.”

Superstitions even play a factor, so seating arrangements are never changed.

“Our seating arrangement is Chandler to my right, Matt McCorkle to my left, then Ryan Hobbs to Matt’s left,” said Quint. “We like to keep it that way.”

Communication and energy are a contributing factors to a great bench player. Whether they hype up the athletes on the court or the fans in the stands, they have an important job at each game.

This Week in

BOBCAT ATHLETICS

February 7 - February 14

Baseball

Feb. 6 - @ West Georgia
 Feb. 9 - vs. #2 Tampa
 Feb. 10 - vs. #2 Tampa
 Feb. 11 - vs. #2 Tampa
 Feb. 14 - vs. West Georgia

Softball

Feb. 6 - @ Albany St. (DH)
 Feb. 10 - @ Carson-Newman (DH)
 Feb. 11 - @ Newberry (DH)

Basketball

Feb. 7 - @ Clayton St.
 Feb. 10 - @ Augusta
 Feb. 12 - @ Flagler
 Feb. 14 - vs. Columbus St. (Sr. Day)

Tennis

Feb. 11 - @ Valdosta State
 Feb. 13 - vs. Augusta (Women's)
 Feb. 14 - vs. Augusta (Men's)

Golf

Feb. 12 - vs. Matlock
 Intercollegiate @
 Lakeland, Fla.
 Feb. 13 - vs. Matlock
 Intercollegiate @
 Lakeland, Fla.

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Dr. Mary Jean Land by 12 p.m.,
Friday, Feb. 9 in Beeson Hall Room 219.

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Art that matters

**Macy
Neal**
Staff Writer

Valerie Aranda is a professor of art, drawing and painting here at GC. But her skills don't stop at teaching. She herself is a phenomenal artist, portraying cultural expressions and traditions as well their conveyance across generations, demographics and diverse geographies.

Aranda uses a figurative element in her work to draw and paint the human figure.

She studied life drawing and painting the human form as an undergraduate because of her love for dance.

Aranda first noticed her love for drawing and how it made people feel in the third grade. As a child, Aranda was shy and reserved, but she quickly realized art helped her communicate.

The first time she ever shared one of her creations was when she entered her piece into an exhibition. She came in first place.

Aranda said her family has impacted her art in a major way.

"My parents and daughter are my biggest fans," Aranda said. "They are so supportive but aren't afraid to give me

honest criticism. To this day, my parents attend shows that I have and my work is all over their house."

When Aranda creates art she likes to be in her studio and listens to music, podcasts and different radio programs while she works.

Aside from art, Aranda spends time investing in other hobbies which include outdoor activity such as running, hiking and riding her bike. She also loves to dance, from free form to the Jitterbug.

Co-curators Elizabeth Vann-Womack and Rebecca Selem have worked closely with Aranda for the Leland Gallery and previously as her students.

"As a person and a professor, she's always been someone who goes out of her way to say hello to her students," Vann-Womack said. "As an artist, she's someone who incorporates all aspects of her life into her work, and it's always fascinating to see the personal lives and interests of our mentors."

Similarly, Selem said she has been positively impacted by having Aranda as a professor, mentor and friend.

"I would describe Professor Aranda as a gentle soul with a purpose," Selem said. "Her art is meaningful and deliberate.

She paints subject matter that is important to her, and she paints a story that she wants to share with the world."

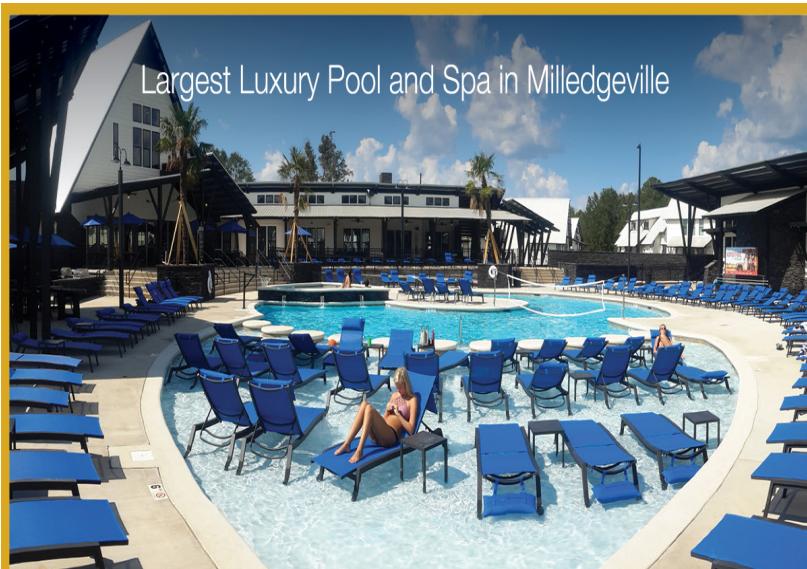
Each one of Aranda's paintings is special to her for different reasons, and they each hold a unique significance. Her favorite piece she has done, however, is called "En El Desierto, Hay Canciones."

"One of my favorite pieces is the one I created in graduate school at the University of California San Diego for my master thesis show," Aranda said.

"The exhibition was focused on community. I represented the community I come from, and in the paintings I wanted to show where that place was. The piece is called 'En El Desierto, Hay Canciones,' or 'In the desert, there are songs.'"

“...she paints a story that she wants to share with the world.”

*-Rebecca Selem,
co-curator*



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FEBRUARY 7 - FEBRUARY 13, 2018 KAYLIN MARTINKO, CO-A&L EDITOR



Ada Montgomery / Senior Photographer

Lindsay Stevens
Staff Writer

Milledgeville celebrated local businesses on Friday when the city put on their First Friday of the Month event with the theme of "Love Local." Students and locals came out, packing places like Blackbird Coffee and Gringo's to show their Milledgeville pride.

"You can get a pizza anywhere, but not The Brick's atmosphere," said sophomore David Williams, an economics major. "A burger isn't hard to find, but a better crowd than Buffington's just can't be found. The local shops, restaurants and bars aren't just in Milledgeville: they are Milledgeville."

Milledgeville's First Friday program aims to encourage the people who live here to celebrate and explore all that Milledgeville has to offer and to create a family-friendly and communal atmosphere downtown.

Local businesses, cultural sites and

nightlife venues stay open later to present special events and give exclusive discounts to those who come.

"I think it's important to eat locally because it supports the local neighborhood over corporate businesses," said sophomore Sierra Kirsche, a studio arts major and employee at Amici. "By giving business to small shops or family-owned restaurants, your money goes a lot farther by helping promote a sense of community and helping small business owners keep their doors open."

Not only does this program encourage people to come out and support downtown, but it also offers them the chance to win \$50 in Milly Money. For this recent First Friday, local businesses from Amici to Jack and Milly offered local patrons the opportunity to enter this drawing if they snapped a photo of themselves in front of a #LoveLocalMilly sign downtown and posted it to social media with the hashtag #LoveLocalMilly.

"I think it's a great idea to have this

drawing because in a way it is an opportunity for these businesses to thank the people who support them and give them the chance to pay it forward," said junior Breezy Barr, a biology major.

The next opportunity to come downtown

and celebrate Milledgeville is March 2. This next First Friday theme will be "Celebrate Our Roots," offering free trolley rides to Milledgeville's museums to help patrons learn about the history of the city between 6 and 8 p.m.



Ada Montgomery / Senior Photographer

Seniors Jordan Lee, Ashleigh White and Aaron Watson enjoy First Friday.

Bobcats Brewin'

Amy
Strang
Co-A&L Editor

So you love coffee. You drink multiple cups a day and your Keurig is your best friend. But you want to know more, so you walk into an artisan coffee shop to feel like a real coffee drinker.

There's music playing from the festival circuit, local art on display for decoration and an exposed brick wall for aesthetic. In the corner, there are big couches occupied by people you're too intimidated to approach. A barista with a long beard and a man bun whose name is something like Bartholomew looks at you through his round glasses and asks for your order. You fight the urge to lie and say you've never used a Keurig in your life.

When you sip the coffee, though, it just tastes better for some reason. It's probably because baristas like Bartholomew have brewing coffee down to an art form.

It's no surprise that these impossibly cool coffee shops have so much business. In 2016, coffee retail sales in the United States reached over \$177 million and are continuing to grow. These caffeine-crazed hipster breeding grounds aren't going anywhere.

Aside from being cooler than you will ever be, the baristas at these shops really know what they're doing. However, with some tips and tricks from the experts, you can make that perfect brew right in your own home.

Shelby Slauer, former New York City barista, had to move all the way from Georgia to NYC to learn the art of brewing coffee. Her first piece of advice is to pay attention to your roasts.

Step One: Find Your Brew

Before you go nuts and start looking up the science behind coffee brewing and how to do the perfect pour-over, learn what roast you like. Slauer said the different coffee roasts pertain to how you draw out the flavor of a coffee bean through roasting.

"A light roast coffee has a lighter body, which produces clearer flavors, whereas a darker roast coffee has a heavier body, which produces wilder flavors," Slauer said.

Lighter roasts are the most acidic. A medium roast will be sweeter than a light roast, but a dark roast will taste the most bitter.

Once you know which roast you like, the next step is to find the right beans.

The way coffee beans are processed and where they originate plays a huge part in how the coffee will taste, so do your research. Factors like where the beans grow, the climate of that region and the elevation of that region determine taste.

Slauer said the highest quality beans come from specialty coffee shops. So throw on some thick glasses and a beanie and head into your local shop. For bonus points, ask the barista if their coffee beans are single-origin. (This means the beans come from the same geographic location.)

Step Two: Buy Whole Bean

Any barista will tell you to buy whole bean. Buying pre-ground beans may be easier, but once coffee is ground, it begins to lose its flavor and aroma.

By the time a bag of ground coffee makes its way to your kitchen, it could be weeks since it has been ground, leading to stale-tasting coffee. Baristas always grind coffee beans themselves in an effort to keep the coffee fresh.

Step Three: Find a Brewing Method You Like

Once your fresh beans are all ground up, it's up to you to decide how you want to brew. Expert barista Matthew Hood, of Blackbird Coffee, said that there are many brewing methods that work well.

"They're all gonna have a slightly different taste," Hood explained.

His personal preference? The French press. A French press is a device that pushes the grounds down to the bottom of the pot when the coffee is finished brewing, resulting in a full and strong cup of coffee.

"A French press is going to have a lot of body to it," Hood said.

Slauer agrees. "I mostly use a French press at home," she said. "It's the easiest at-home brewing method in my opinion."

Hood said one of the most popular brewing methods is the pour over.



Amy Strang / Co-Editor A&L

An example of freshly brewed French press coffee.

"It's a much finer taste," he said. "Much more saturated."

A pour over involves pouring hot water over your grounds in a cone filter, saturating them to bring out the flavors of your coffee.

Try out a few different brewing methods to see what you like best. Coffee is always about personal preference and creativity.

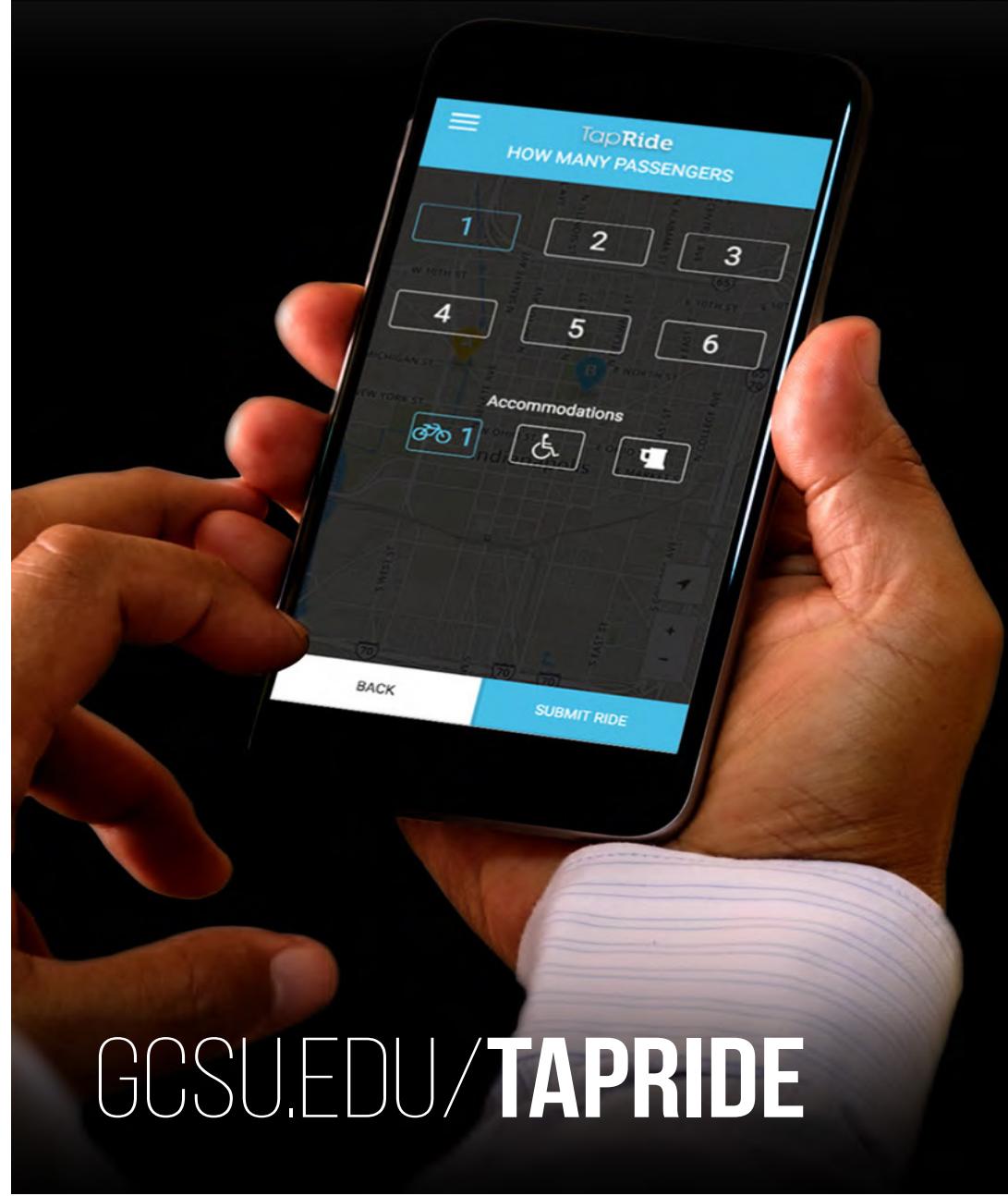
Step Four: Enjoy Your Homemade Brew

Now that you've made it this far, congrats! You're your own barista now. Though your coffee may be done, there is still more you can do with it to make it even fancier, such as steaming milk to make it into a latte, maybe even playing with a little bit of latte art. Experiment with your process and find your own taste.

At this point, geometric tattoos have probably spontaneously appeared on your skin, and you may find yourself wearing skinny jeans and a beanie. Don't worry, just head into your local coffee shop to sit on those big couches and judge the Keurig-user who walk in and don't even know what a pour-over is. Amateurs.

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